Runaway Alien

Story by Michael Pryor
Illustrations by Heath McKenzie



PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Runaway Alien

Level 26 **Curriculum Area** Literacy
Running Words 2009 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the story in his or her own words.
Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 What made Keebo so nervous?
2 What was Keebo's fur like?
3 Why did Ms Bramble ask Sochi to make sure Keebo was all right?
4 What was the rolling ring?

Inferential

5 Why is a backstage crew required at a performance?
6 What is an alien?
7 What type of important jobs would Keebo's parents have on their planet?
8 How would Keebo and his parents travel to Earth?
9 Why did everyone rush to help Keebo when he went spherical?
10 Why did the teacher use the glitter launcher at the end of the concert?

Applied Knowledge

11 In the future, will it be possible for creatures from other planets to travel to Earth? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

Replace the verb 'plunging' in this sentence:
He was still plunging downhill.

Replace the noun 'impact' in this sentence:
I threw my arms out wide, and I braced for impact.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 26	Book	Narrative	*Luca's Adventures in Florence*
Level 26	Book	Narrative	*The Mystery at Number 7*

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Chapter 1

The Concert



One hour before Hillside School's final concert for the year, Ms Bramble asked us all to line up. The singers. The musicians. The dancers. The actors. Even the backstage crew, which was me, Sochi.

"I don't want to make you all nervous," Ms Bramble said. "But I've just had news that Keebo's parents will be in the audience tonight!"

Everyone turned. Everyone stared at Keebo.

Keebo started to tremble. Then he squeaked. He always squeaks when he gets nervous. I reached out and patted his fur.

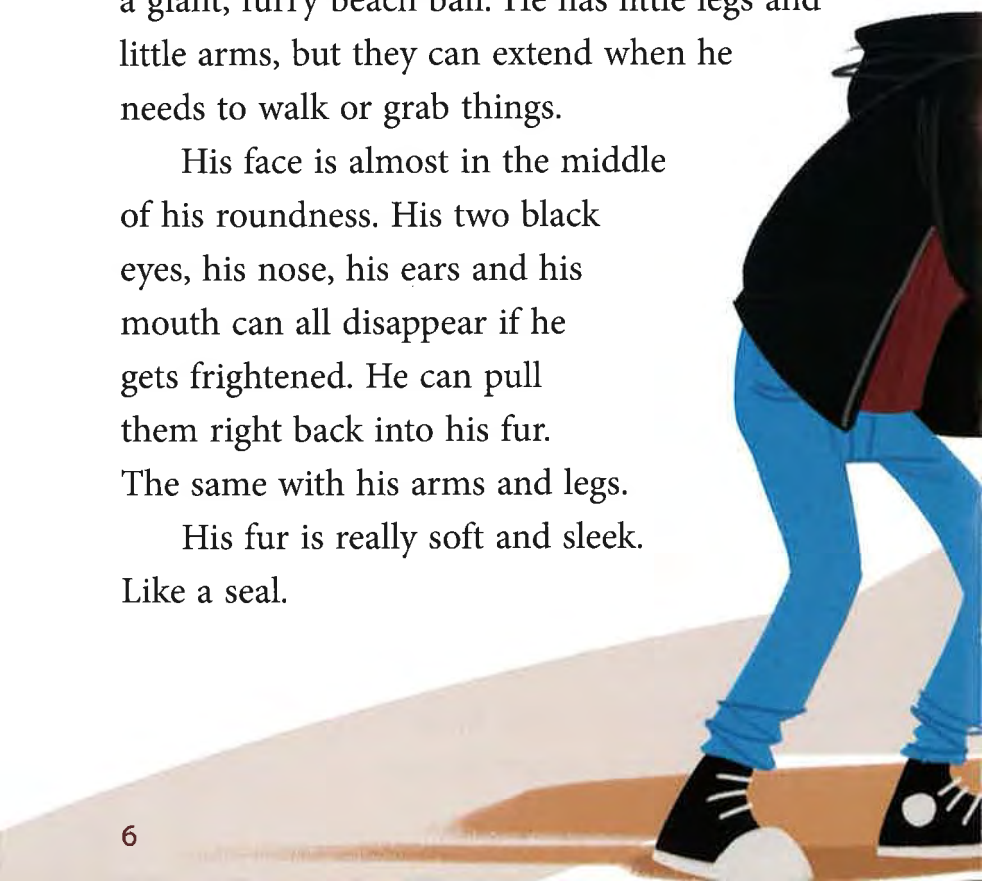
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Keebo is an alien from the planet Tiborto. He came to our school earlier this year. His mum and dad are really important visitors to Earth and they have really important jobs on planet Tiborto. They wanted Keebo to come to an ordinary Earth school, though. They wanted Keebo to see how Earth people lived.

Keebo is hard to miss in a crowd. He's a bit taller than me, but he's almost totally round, like a giant, furry beach ball. He has little legs and little arms, but they can extend when he needs to walk or grab things.

His face is almost in the middle of his roundness. His two black eyes, his nose, his ears and his mouth can all disappear if he gets frightened. He can pull them right back into his fur. The same with his arms and legs.

His fur is really soft and sleek. Like a seal.



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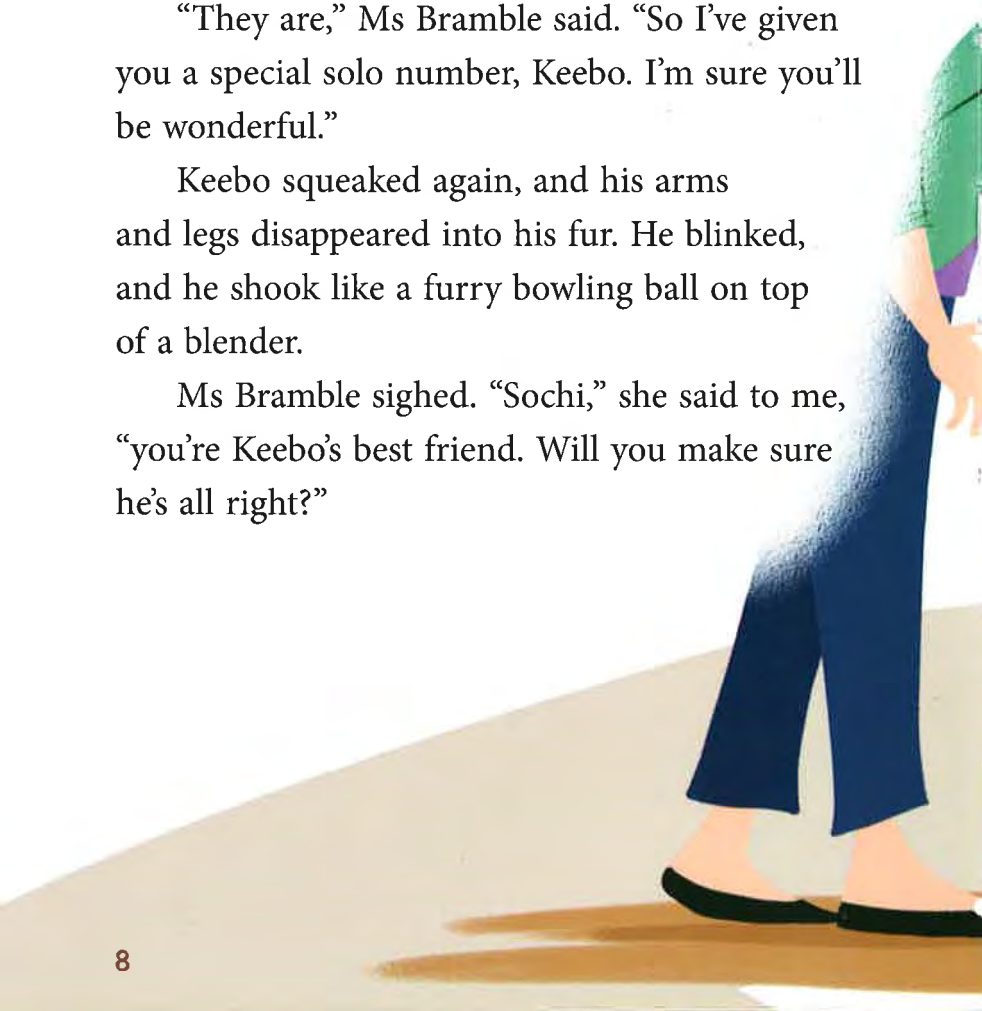
Keebo is an extremely good singer. He can do three voices at the same time, so he can sing in harmony with himself. This is the reason why he has a key part in tonight's big concert.

Keebo shook himself. "My mum and dad are going to be here?" he said. "They didn't say anything about that when I spoke to them last."

"They are," Ms Bramble said. "So I've given you a special solo number, Keebo. I'm sure you'll be wonderful."

Keebo squeaked again, and his arms and legs disappeared into his fur. He blinked, and he shook like a furry bowling ball on top of a blender.

Ms Bramble sighed. "Sochi," she said to me, "you're Keebo's best friend. Will you make sure he's all right?"



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It is one hour before the school concert, and Keebo has just found out that he's going to be singing a solo in front of his parents. But Keebo is an alien who turns into a big, furry ball when he gets scared. How will his best friend, Sochi, save the day?



Text Type:
Narrative (Imaginative)

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